THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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IN THIS ISSUE
News from the regions:
Annapolis Valley Regional Library / Cape Breton Regional Library / Colchester-East Hants Regional Library / Cumberland Regional Library / Eastern Counties Regional Library / Halifax Regional Library / Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library / South Shore Regional Library / Western Counties Regional Library

Nova Scotia Provincial Library News

Summertime, and the regions are busy!

Special Issue on Public Relations Activities:

This special summer issue of The Disseminator focuses on library public relations activities. Many thanks to all of the contributors, who took time out from their hectic summer schedules to prepare their submissions.

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Festivities running all summer for 50th Anniversary

The celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library kicked off with a reception held April 25 in Annapolis Royal. The reception was planned and carried out by a group of library supporters. Library staff were on hand to assist with a children's story time and face-painting corner, a literary trivia contest, a display of books from 1949-1999, and to help eat all the wonderful food provided by the volunteers. A magnificent floral display was donated by Lorraine Beswick.

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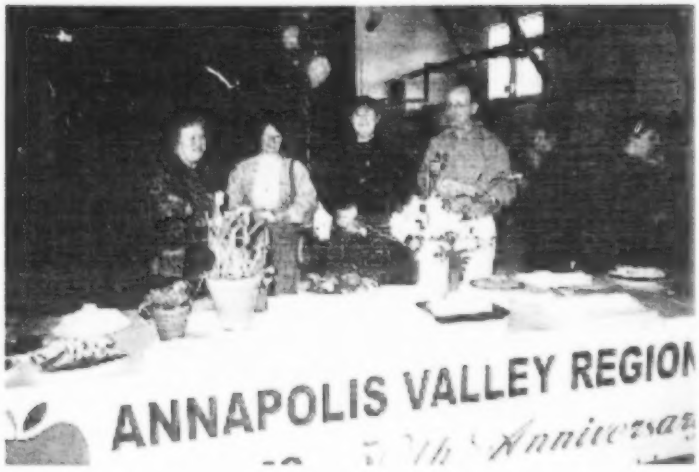
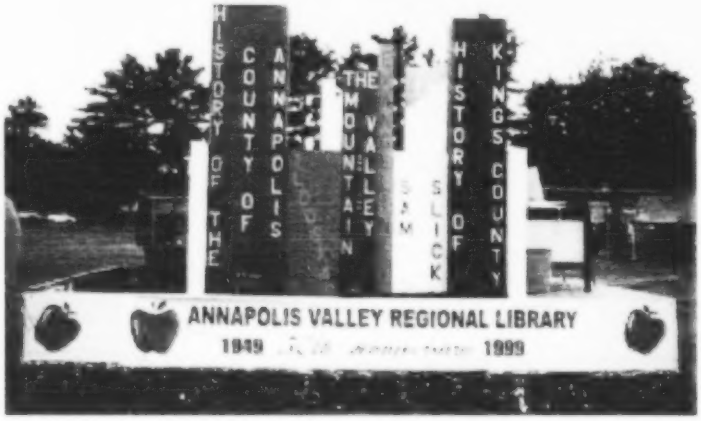


Enjoying the festivities are, left to right: Clarice Muntz of Smith's Cove, Lorraine Beswick of Karsdale, Sandy Troop of Centrelea, and Gary Freeman of Lequille.

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary, a group of library supporters created a float for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. The float is cleaning up at parades this summer, having won the Outstanding Artistic Entry Award at the Kingston parade and several other first place awards.



Cape Breton Regional Library
Officer and alien assist at reading program launch

The staff of the McConnell Library in Sydney always have fun launching the Summer Reading Program, and this year was no exception. They donned antennae, ready to receive messages from outer space. An alien and an officer from the Starship Enterprise were on hand to greet children and help them register for the program.

An alien looking suspiciously like Beverly McGee assists a young patron as the McConnell Library prepares to blast off with the Summer Reading Program.

McConnell Library staff - ready for incoming messages!

Home page heads the list

It's not guaranteed to happen every time, but recently the Cape Breton Regional Library managed to make it to the top of a Hot Bot search results list. A local patron had entered the search string "non fiction books" on his home computer, and was surprised when the first of the 69,510 matches returned was none other than the local library!

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library
Teen Corner provides specialized services in Truro

Staff saw a need, and recent renovations freed some space. The result? A new Teen Corner in Colchester-East Hants Regional Library's main branch in Truro.

Youth Services staff have created an area just for teens. Volunteers from the Canada World Youth Program moved book stacks and staff went through the main collections pulling books and magazines geared to teen interests and needs. A round table, repainted tub chairs, and newly-upholstered cushions invite teens to relax and stay a while. A bulletin board and pamphlet rack complete the space, with computers and a reference desk nearby.

Truro's Mayor Mills cuts the ribbon and joins Library Board Chair Edith Patterson and Young Friends of the Library for cake and refreshments June 24. The Teen Corner has regular visitors already, and as word spreads it's sure to become even more popular.

Community partnerships strengthen ties

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library is reviewing its community involvement with a view to building on its traditional partnerships with adult learning groups, schools, public legal educators and others. By working with the Chamber of Commerce to develop Truro's International Tulip Festival; participating in fund raisers for other community groups such as the hospital and Big Brothers, Big Sisters; and providing information and meeting space for fledgling groups, the library can ensure that it is serving the community in the best way possible.

Cumberland Regional Library
Bequest helps build children's collection

A generous bequest has enabled the Cumberland Regional Library to purchase hundreds of new children's books for the branches and the bookmobile. The regional library received a $10,000 bequest from the estate of the late Russell Hunter, a well-known local businessman.

Library Clerk Dianna Lawless introduces a few young members of her preschool story time group to some of the latest picture book additions bought with the Hunter bequest at the Four Fathers Memorial Library in Amherst.

Black Heritage Month brings poet to Cumberland County

In celebration of Black Heritage Month, the Cumberland Regional Library invited poet, critic, playwright and educator Dr. George Elliot Clarke to read at the Four Fathers Memorial Library on February 12. The event was a great success. Clarke entertained his audience with readings from a novel in progress and earlier works. The wine and cheese reception later in the evening gave members of the community an opportunity to meet the guest of honour.

Dr. George Elliott Clarke helps celebrate Black Heritage Month in Cumberland County.

Eastern Counties Regional Library
Thirtieth anniversary reunites old friends

The Eastern Counties Regional Library celebrated thirty years of service to the communities of Guysborough County in May with a gathering at the Mulgrave Branch Library.

MLA Ray White, municipal councillors, members of the library board, employees and former employees joined together for the celebration. The event had all the ingredients for a successful afternoon: a beautiful sunny day, balloons, hot dogs and cake. The municipality, the fire department, the Legion, the Women's Auxiliary and the community at large all contributed to make this a special day.

Festivities will continue throughout the summer months as Sherbrooke and Canso Branch Libraries also reach the 30 year mark.

Kathy MacInnis, left, and Joyce Oliver-Snair prepare to cut the cake at the anniversary celebration.

Halifax Regional Library
Celebrity Reading page raises awareness

The Halifax Regional Library's summer issue of the *Library Guide* featured Raylene Rankin of Cape Breton's Rankin Family in the celebrity reading page. The celebrity reading page was launched in the November-December 1998 issue of the guide to give literacy and reading a higher profile in the community.

Celebrity reader Raylene Rankin enjoys *If You Could Wear My Sneakers* by local author Sheree Fitch during a visit to the Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library.

Make Yourself Famous Awards Night

Winners of the Halifax North Memorial Public Library's Make Yourself Famous: Art, Story, Poetry & Audio Visual Contest celebrated their new-found fame at the Terry Symonds Auditorium when they attended the awards night in April. The auditorium was filled to capacity with almost 200 people. Many talented students were presented with awards for their outstanding works of art and exceptional poetry and story writing. Grade 2 student Laquinta Wiggins was the recipient of the Dr. Marie Hamilton Award. Dr. Hamilton, an educator and strong advocate of literacy, was a staunch supporter of the Halifax North Public Library's Children's Reading Support Program.

Laquinta Wiggins is presented with the Dr. Marie Hamilton Award by Constable Craig Smith. Constable Smith is a former youth worker at the Halifax North Memorial Public Library.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library
Donation helps build library's First Nation collection

Pictou-Antigonish has launched its initial fund raising campaign and recently accepted a donation from Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia that will help spread awareness of Mi'kmaq culture.

Kimberly-Clark requested that a portion of the donation be used to add First Nations material to the library. The company works in partnership with the Pictou Landing First Nations Elementary School, whose students have been visiting the public library every week.

Jack Kyte, Public Affairs manager for Kimberly-Clark, said the donation was made in appreciation. "It is our way of saying thank you to the library for having the First Nations children here. We think it is very important," he explained.

First Nations students Travis Francis and Anglisa Thomas were on hand for the presentation, along with (back row, left) Peggy Hiscock of Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library; Jack Kyte, of Kimberly-Clark; and teacher assistant Mary Francis. They presented the library with a medicine wheel made by Barb Jadis, a teacher at the school. The medicine wheel is an important symbol of purification, wholeness and freedom in Mi'kmaq culture.

Exhibition space provides a community showcase

Patrons and visitors entering the New Glasgow Library never know what they might see as they walk through the front door. The library has established an exhibition space in the foyer, and so far there have been a variety of displays - from paintings and sketches to goat-milk soap and wedding cakes! The area gives artists and organizations an opportunity to show their work and advertise their services. The eye-catching displays, which change every two weeks, draw many comments and compliments.>

New Glasgow Library Supervisor Carole MacMillan admires a recent display of paintings and sketches featured in the exhibition area.

South Shore Regional Library

Annual book sale draws a crowd

The South Shore Regional Library's annual book sale was successful again this year. Hundreds of people showed up for the event, and the library raised more than $2,300 for the purchase of new books.

Victor Swinimer and his son Aidan inspect their purchase at the South Shore Regional Library's annual book sale.

Parade float cruises the region this summer

The South Shore Regional Library will stay in the public eye this summer with a parade float based on the "Launch Yourself into a Good Book" theme of the Summer Reading Program. Mosher Motors, a local car dealership, generously donated the use of a truck to haul the float this summer.

Summer student Chad Honneyman has navigated the float in two parades already, and there are four more scheduled in Lunenburg and Queens Counties throughout the summer.

Western Counties Regional Library

Friends of the Library Day honours volunteers

Friends of the Western Counties Regional Library are blazing a trail for other Friends groups to follow, Library Board Chair Gary Archibald told library volunteers at the first annual Friends of the Library Day on Saturday, June 5 in Yarmouth.

"Nova Scotia is leading Atlantic Canada with the development of Friends groups, and furthermore our region is leading the way for the province," he told the 25 volunteers from groups in Clark's Harbour, Shelburne, Pubnico, Weymouth, Westport, Digby, and Yarmouth.

Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault kicked off the day by congratulating volunteers for the "invaluable work Friends have carried out on behalf of their local libraries - from fund raising, to advocacy, support of library programs and events, or playing a public relations role."

Friends of the Library Day provided an opportunity for many library volunteers to meet for the first time and exchange ideas and thoughts for future development. A variety of topics were discussed, including the resources available for Friends groups, expanding and revitalizing a Friends group, and the respective roles of the Board, the Regional Director, library staff and Friends.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum, the Shelburne Library Building Association, the Pubnico Library Committee, the Lockeport Library Committee, the Westport Library Committee and the Digby Library Committee, long-standing support groups whose primary mandate is to provide and maintain library buildings or grounds. Certificates were also awarded to all Friends of the Library groups.

New van hits the Tri-County area

Library staff have been enjoying the benefits of a new book van for the last few months, and weekly scheduling has become much easier. Librarians Janice Boudreau, Joanne Head and Virginia Stoddard log approximately 50,000 kilometres per year providing library service across the region in the two vans. Both vehicles now sport WCRL logos, making them easily recognizable as they cruise the Tri-county area.

The new Western Counties Regional Library van hits the road.

Nova Scotia Provincial Library news

Astronaut Steve MacLean to visit libraries across the province

Children enrolled in the Summer Reading Program had an opportunity to meet a real astronaut when Dr. Steve MacLean of the Canadian Space Agency tours the province August 18-20 to promote the Summer Reading Program. Dr. MacLean will visit each of the nine regions, encouraging children across the province to "launch themselves into a good book," and talking to them about his career. For more information about Dr. MacLean's tour, consult your local library.

"Keep up the good work," seniors tell libraries

The World Trade and Convention Centre was a hive of activity July 16 and 17 as seniors congregated for the 10th annual Seniors' Expo. The libraries' booth was coordinated by Arlene Watts of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The booth was staffed by representatives from the Halifax Regional Library, the Cumberland Regional Library, and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

Many of the approximately 400 seniors who dropped by the booth confessed to being avid library users and expressed their appreciation for the services available there. One visitor praised his local book mobile, noting that it had been stopping at the end of his driveway since he was in elementary school!

But the event was more than an opportunity to meet the public, it also gave library staff a chance to dispel some misconceptions. Some visitors to the booth were unsure of the policy for borrowing videos, for example. A few thought that there was a rental charge for videos, and others were not sure how long they could be kept. As well as asking questions, visitors obtained information about specific services; viewed the video *libraries: where the future begins*; tried out the print enhancing computer; picked up complimentary pencils, book marks, magnets and plastic carrier bags; and filled out ballots to win Summer Reading Program sweatshirts.

Halifax Regional Library's Bernie Isles (left) discusses the many services available for seniors with a visitor to the booth at the Seniors' Expo.

In the next issue of the Disseminator:

CAP sites and Libraries - Find out how libraries across the province are working with the Community Access Program to bring Internet access into their communities.